

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 28, 2009 has been entered.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Remenick on September 30, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 44, line 13, "grip" has been changed to --attachment--; and

Line 14, "grip" has been changed to --attachment--.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In regard to claim 1, the reasons for allowance provided by applicant in the remarks received July 28, 2009 on page 6, ¶¶2 through page 12, ¶¶3 are incorporated herein as the reasons for allowance. As claim 44 defines each clasp as having the configuration stated in claim

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1, the reasons for allowance provided by applicant for claim 1 are incorporated herein as the reasons for allowance of this claim as well since applicant's remarks are equally applicable to claim 44.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 1-5, 14, 6-13, 15-17, 11, 18-20, 44, 25, 27, 26 and 30-32, renumbered 1-26 respectively, are allowed.

The drawings filed July 9, 2003 are approved as is the new sheet showing figure 6 filed July 1, 2008.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES R. BRITTAIN whose telephone number is (571)272-7065. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/James R. Brittain/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677

JRB